

January 19, 2010

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BELLMORE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK, HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE WINTHROP AVENUE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, January 19, 2010 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**Those present:**

**Janet Goller, President**

**Jay L. T. Breakstone, Vice President**

**Marion Blane**

**Brian Desmond**

**Steven Traum**

**Joseph S. Famularo, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools**

**Deborah DeLuca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services**

**Deirdre Gambino, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology**

**Jack S. Feldman, Esq.**

**Randy Yee, District Clerk**

Ms. Goller, President, called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. at which time the Board:

- Reviewed the agenda
- The Board reviewed a draft of the proposed calendar for 2010-2011

The Board met with representatives of the PTA at 7:15 p.m., and at 8:12 p.m. Ms. Goller, President, called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the minutes of the Board meetings of December 15, 2009 and January 5, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum seconded by Ms. Blane to accept the treasurer's report for the month ending December 31, 2009.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Correspondence**

None

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**Purchasing**

Ms. Blane proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Desmond and unanimously approved 5-0.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of its Claims Auditor to approve the warrants of Fund A – 13-17; Fund F – 7; Fund HS – 4; Fund HC – 3; Fund HB – 2; and Fund T – 14 and 15, which are on file in the District Office.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Famularo began his report by noting that two of the three Kennedy High School Intel Semi-finalists, Bari Bruno and Stephanie Wiener attended the Bellmore Elementary Schools. He noted that annually, approximately 1600 students enter the Intel Science Talent Search which is America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition. Dr. Famularo said the District is very proud of these student's accomplishments.

He continued by sharing that he had attended a videoconference between Mrs. McHale's fourth grade class at Winthrop Ave. and a class from Sloatsburg School in Ramapo, NY. The two classes had an earlier videoconference during which they shared clues about a "mystery" town. The clues were derived from student research and included information about local American Indian tribes that once inhabited the area, American Revolution heroes that resided in the area, famous landmarks, and latitude and longitude coordinates of the town. Librarian, Mrs. Falabella created this activity three years ago, and classes at Winthrop have been enjoying doing the research and interacting with other classes around the state.

**Maryann Zozarro**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of teaching assistant Maryann Zozarro effective January 4, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Valerie Brauchler**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of teaching assistant Valerie Brauchler effective December 18, 2009.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Diane Castonguay**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to accept the resignation of District treasurer Diane Castonguay effective March 31, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Jennifer Bobb**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Jennifer Bobb to a teaching assistant position on Step 1 of the teaching assistant salary schedule effective January 20, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

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**Donna Masetti**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to appoint Donna Masetti to a building substitute position effective January 20, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Elizabeth Haines**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a family medical leave of absence for classroom teacher Elizabeth Haines effective March 12, 2010 for the remainder of the school year.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Rosemary Segerdahl**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Desmond to approve a medical leave of absence for classroom teacher Rosemary Segerdahl effective January 13, 2010 through February 12, 2010.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**BFO Contract**

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Breakstone, seconded by Mr. Desmond, and approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Traum abstaining.

***BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Bellmore Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Bellmore Faculty Organization regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the teachers' bargaining unit: and***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board.***

Mr. Breakstone thanked everyone involved in the negotiation process for their hard work in reaching an agreement. Ms. Goller thanked Ms. Blane for representing the Board during negotiations and Mr. Traum for serving as an alternate. She then stated the highlights of the contract as follows:

- Increases in each of the 4 years of: 2.2%, 2.2%, 2.25%, 2.25%
- Health insurance contributions in each of the 4 years of: 16%, 17%, 18%, 18%

**Friedberg JCC Summer Recreation Program**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Breakstone to approve the use of the facilities at the Reinhard Early Childhood Center for the Barry & Florence Friedberg South Shore Y JCC Summer Recreation Program for the summer of 2010.

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**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**CSE/CPSE**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Breakstone and seconded by Mr. Traum that the recommendations of the CSE/CPSE be approved, for the students as per an attachment on file in the District office.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

**Visitors**

Ms. Gloria Panella, President of the Bellmore Faculty Organization thanked the Board, counsel, and administrators for achieving a contract settlement. She said the faculty is pleased to have a four year contract and will continue to work as they always have on behalf of the students and the District.

**Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services**

Dr. DeLuca stated that based upon the information gathered by their colleagues, the Curriculum Advisory Committee decided to focus on Social Studies as this year's project.

The Reinhard Student Advisory Council (SAC) sponsored a collection for the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter. The students learned about the functioning of the shelter and brainstormed what the shelter might need to carry out their important role in our community. Once this list was created, the school families contributed items such as blankets, dog bones, animal toys, etc., which was presented to the shelter.

Chess club has begun in the Early Childhood Center. Close to 200 students are participating in this four week lunch club option, which is being sponsored by the PTA. Students meet with chess masters every Friday during recess and are learning the rules of chess. By the end of the four weeks all students will be playing chess with a friend, some with much independence and some with guidance. All are enjoying this new experience.

The second grade Reinhard Rising Star Chorus performed for the entire school community and their parents. Under the direction of Mrs. Andersen, the music teacher, our choral members have been giving up their recess periods to learn the songs and choreography necessary for this performance. As Mrs. Andersen stated at the concert, the ninety-one members of the Rising Star Chorus exemplify our core values of dedication and teamwork in the manner in which they prepared for this performance. Students sang songs to commemorate Sesame Street's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson discovering New York, and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first moon walk. The concert ended with a tribute to Michael Jackson. Their rendition of *Thriller* was sung with gloves on one hand, choreography, and yes, even the moon walk.

Mrs. Frankel, our FLES teacher, involved Mr. Solnick's third grade class in a videoconference with a class in Laredo, Texas, just over the border from Mexico. Their children presented a short

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bilingual presentation on “Los Pasados”, which is a Mexican tradition that recounts the story of Christmas. Winthrop students watched the Laredo students participate in a traditional dance, wearing costumes and playing instruments. The Winthrop third graders had the opportunity to use their Spanish language skills to introduce themselves. They asked and responded to simple questions in Spanish about our school and location, such as, “How is the weather?”

The fourth grade classes participated in a two-day workshop entitled “Steer Clear of Bullying.” The presenters, from the Child Abuse Prevention Services, visited each classroom to engage the students in discussions and role-plays about bullying. Feelings, reactions, being proactive, and body language were all discussed, as well as, appreciating our individual differences. Mrs. Sass, the District social worker, organized these workshops, and followed-up in every fourth grade class to answer any questions and address any comments or concerns that the students still had about bullying.

The Winthrop Winning Stars participated in “Disabilities Awareness Week.” The students learned about “Beep Ball”, an alternative form of baseball played by people who are legally blind. Many students participated in playing either offense or defense, wearing a blindfold to get the full effect of the experience. The United Cerebral Palsy Foundation presented a musical program which fostered the understanding that people with disabilities certainly have many abilities. The children clapped and danced along as the performers sang. The children met guide dogs at the Guide Dog Foundation assembly. They learned how the dogs are trained, what they learn, and how they help the visually impaired. They had the opportunity to pet and get to know these friendly, smart animals. During that presentation, the District welcomed both Channel 12 and Channel 55 news to interview several children about the week’s events. To complete the week, students attended the “Kids on the Block” puppet show. This puppet show helped students understand a variety of disabilities and the importance of giving friendship and respect to everyone, regardless of their outward appearance or disability. The message was that on the outside we all look different, but on the inside, all people need love, respect, and friendship.

Members of Shore Road’s band ensemble, chamber orchestra, and select chorus performed at Nassau University Medical Center on the Rehabilitation Unit to the delight of patients and staff alike. They performed music related to the holiday season, with selections representing Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Students were accompanied and conducted by their music teachers, Mrs. Laude, Ms. Oshiro, and Mrs. Rostholder.

Sixth grade teachers and the building administrator met with a representative from Grand Avenue Middle School to begin the process of articulation between districts. This is the first of many contacts regarding the transition of sixth grade students from elementary to middle school.

Trust Me was a 40-minute multimedia experience that motivated students to develop a deeper sense of honesty with others and themselves. The presentation encouraged them to take responsibility for their actions, to be straightforward and honest with those around them in a positive, respectful manner, and to become a person that everyone can trust. Teachers were provided with a discussion guide for pre and post assembly.

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Dr. DeLuca also noted that over the summer a team of teachers from the Reinhard Early Childhood Center worked on a Character Education Initiative which focused on reviewing, updating, and creating new activities and special events related to the Bellmore core values.

#### **Reinhard Character Education Committee Presentation**

Mrs. Ventimiglia spoke on behalf of the committee and provided a power point presentation to describe the many activities and events the committee came up with to teach and reinforce the District's core values of respect, dedication, integrity, trust and teamwork. Activities included a school-wide pep rally, original songs for each of the values, home sweet homework, bulletin board displays throughout the school and the "Catch a Rising Star" program where students are recognized for "doing the right thing". Following the presentation, Mrs. Goller noted that it is wonderful to be in the schools where you can see the character education program at work. Dr. Famularo added that it is important that the District provides students with both character and competence; it's a successful combination and must be kept going.

#### **Report of the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Technology**

##### **Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Worker Partial Tax Exemption**

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Traum, seconded by Mr. Desmond, and unanimously approved 5-0.

***BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore UFSD extend for one year it's adoption of New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-C for firefighters and ambulance workers for property owners who have been a certified member for at least five years.***

***BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore UFSD adopt for one year a lifetime exemption for certified members with over 20 years of volunteer service.***

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Bellmore UFSD adopt for one year an exemption for an unremarried spouse of a deceased certified member having at least 20 years of active service, and the exemption for an unmarried spouse of a certified member with at least five years of volunteer service killed in the line of duty as per the attached exemption schedule received from the Nassau County Department of Assessment dated January 13, 2010.***

##### **Interest Income**

Mrs. Gambino reported that total interest received from all funds for the time period July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 is \$45,005.40.

##### **Community Relations**

Ms. Blane stated that the items in her report had already been covered.

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Central High School District

Ms. Blane reported that the CHSD Board recognized the outstanding work of Mr. Steve Rose a social worker in the district who was the recipient of a CSEA achievement award. She noted the CHSD Board also recognized a Calhoun all-state soccer player.

Legislative

Mr. Breakstone reported that the Governor's proposed budget was released, and it appears that the Bellmore Schools are slated for an approximate decrease of \$500,000 in state aid for next year. He noted these numbers are not final and much debate is expected on this topic. He further stated that the State is opposed to using their reserves to provide funding, but are not opposed to having school districts use their reserves to make up the difference. Mr. Breakstone also noted upcoming legislative events and a Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association workshop on budget topics, and the Race To The Top program where districts are competing for federal funding.

Bylaws

No report

Old /NewBusiness

None.

Visitors

None.

Ms. Goller announced the next regular meeting will be on February 9, 2010, and the next work session on January 2, 2010. She noted the work session will be held at Shore Road.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to enter executive session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss particular personnel matters.

**The motion was carried 5-0.**

The Board re-entered public session at 9:25 p.m. At that time, the Board announced that they had approved salary increases, for the 2009-2010 school year, for the District's confidential employees, Director of Facilities and Transportation, Assistant Superintendents and Superintendent, as per schedules on file in the District Office. There being no further business, **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Blane to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Yee, District Clerk

